

Papers of:
Dean Acheson

✓ State Dept. advisory
Comments
Whitney, Edw. T.

November 2, 1962

Dear Mr. Whitney:

I have your letter of October 25 and thank you for writing me. During the current crisis those in charge have been kind enough to seek and listen to my views. As you know, they also sent me on a mission to brief our NATO allies on the situation.

"Image" is a word I deplore. My concern is that our strength, wisdom, decisions, and actions shall be adequate to deal with today's dangers in good shape. If our actions are right, others can be left to form their own opinions of us. Hence I believe that, if this nation is determined to maintain an environment of freedom, in which the free world can endure and prosper, and exercises to the full its role of leadership to bring this about, both our friends and adversaries will be convinced that it can and will be done, and, together, with our friends the capability to do it will be created. Our actions in the Cuban situation should help in bringing about an understanding of this determination.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Edward T. Whitney,
375 Foster Lane,
Belleair, Florida.

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Dean Acheson

EDWARD T. WHITNEY
375 FOSTER LANE
BELLEAIR, FLORIDA

October 29, 1962.

Mr. Dean Acheson,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Acheson,

It seems to me that I can detect your hand in some recent foreign policy decisions, but I have nothing on which to base the assumption. However, I do hope you are lending your experience and counsel.

There is a problem which baffles my limited mind, on which you may be able to throw some light.

When is America going to be able to project a true image of herself before the world? I realize this must be a difficult problem when we so often have to work with our western friends; but nevertheless I feel that our government should endeavor to clarify this image. Mutual understanding and overt moves will be made by the Communists when this image is not clear to them; Cuba is an example, in my opinion.

Not since Mr. Dulles left the scene, has our foreign policy had the character of expediency. This is not a personal criticism of Mr. Rusk, whom I greatly admire for having developed a fine working relationship with European foreign ministries and governments.

When this Cuban situation has been cleared up satisfactorily to us, I feel that our government should re-state the Monroe Doctrine in strong terms. Their action will not have the backing of our South American friends.

I would be pleased to have your comments on these views of an interested citizen.

Very truly yours,
Edward T. Whitney